

CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (Previously Presented) Method for brewing tea comprising:

introducing water into a blend tank;

circulating water from said blend tank through a heat exchanger for heating said water to a predetermined temperature and returning said water to said blend tank;

transferring said water into a brew tank containing tea;

circulating said water in said brew tank into contact with said tea thereby producing liquid tea concentrate; and

circulating said concentrate from said brew tank through said heat exchanger and said blend tank.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises

introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises circulating said concentrate through a cooling system to cool said concentrate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein said method further comprises storing said

concentrate in a storage tank in a cold storage room after passing through said cooling system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein said method further comprises introducing said concentrate into a mixing tank and adding water to said concentrate to produce a liquid tea beverage.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said method further comprises mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises:

placing a plurality of tea bags on a lifting base disposed in said brew tank;
and

raising said lifting base until said tea bags contact a holding plate thereby squeezing liquid tea concentrate from said tea bags.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein said method further comprises:

raising said lifting base to place said tea bags on said lifting base; and

lowering said lifting base into said brew tank.

19. (Currently Amended) Method for brewing tea comprising:

placing a plurality of tea bags on a lifting base disposed in a brew tank;

lowering said lifting base into said brew tank;

introducing water into a blend tank;

circulating water from said blend tank
through a first heat exchanger for
heating said water to a predetermined
temperature and returning said water to
said blend tank; and

circulating heated said water from said
blend tank through said brew tank and into contact with said tea bags thereby brewing liquid tea concentrate; and

circulating said water from said brew
tank through said first heat exchanger
and through said blend tank;

raising said lifting base until said tea bags contact a holding plate thereby

squeezing liquid tea concentrate from
said tea bags; and

mixing a liquid sweetener with said
liquid tea concentrate.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim
19 22 wherein said method further comprises conducting said
concentrate through a cooling system to cool said concentrate.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to
claim 23 wherein said method further comprises introducing said
concentrate into a mixing tank and adding water to said
concentrate to produce a liquid tea beverage.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to
claim 24 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises
introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while
said concentrate is circulated through said first heat exchanger.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to
claim 25 wherein said method further comprises conducting said
liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said

liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said first heat exchanger.

Claims 30 - 53 (Canceled).